

twenty-one (21) days after the party's appearance. Such party shall be bound by the terms of this order unless the party moves for and obtains amendment of this order by the court.

Supplementation under Rule 26(e) must be made as prescribed by the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, unless otherwise ordered by the court.

Under Fed. R. Civ. P. 29(b) the parties may stipulate to extensions of time to respond to discovery and do not need to seek court approval unless the proposed extension would interfere with the time set for completing discovery, for hearing a motion, or for trial. Motions for extensions of time to respond to discovery that could be addressed through a stipulation will be viewed with disfavor by the court.

This case is subject to mandatory mediation, pursuant to Local Civil Rule 101.1a(b). If the parties are able to agree on a mediator, they shall file a statement identifying the selected mediator and meeting the other applicable requirements **within 21 days after the entry of this order**, in accordance with Local Civil Rule 101.1c(a). If a statement is not timely filed, the Clerk will appoint a mediator from the list of court-certified mediators, in accordance with Local Civil Rule 101.1c(b). Upon request, this court will assist with settlement negotiations or other ADR by making available a judge other than the trial judge to explore these possibilities.

On consent of all parties, and with the concurrence of the District Judge, this case may be referred to a Magistrate Judge for jury or bench trial, as appropriate, with a peremptory trial setting and the right of direct appeal to the Fourth Circuit. A copy of the consent form may be obtained from the Clerk. The parties are free to withhold consent without adverse substantive consequences. Fed. R. Civ. P. 73(b)(2).

Preparation of the final pretrial order is governed by Local Civil Rule 16.1, and the parties shall submit the pretrial order in the form described in Local Civil Rule 16.1(c) and (e).

The remaining portions of the discovery plan that are not inconsistent with this Scheduling Order are approved and adopted by the court.

SO ORDERED, this 17th day of July, 2023.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'BSM', written over a horizontal line.

Brian S. Meyers
United States Magistrate Judge